



March 2014

### ***Father and Son Reconnect after 16 Years***

*Submitted by Preandra Lockwood, Northwest Indiana  
Youth Connections Program (YCP) Specialist*

“Randy” (*due to confidentiality the child’s name has been changed*) is eighteen (18) years old, participates in Collaborative Care, and became involved with DCS at age fourteen (14). Randy’s only memory of his father was prior to age two (2). In November of 2013, Randy informed his YCP Specialist that he would like to reconnect with his father and brother. The DCS Investigators’ Unit located Randy’s father’s address and phone number.

In December of 2013, Randy’s father was contacted and he expressed his desire to reconnect with Randy. He was unaware that Randy was involved with DCS and had many questions.

Then in February 2014, Randy, with the help of his YCP Specialist, had his first phone conversation with his father after sixteen years. Randy also spoke with his brother during the call. Randy’s father invited Randy to come live with him in a neighboring state. Randy was able to share with his father that he was on track for getting his high school diploma and has plans to attend college in hopes of playing football so that someday he can play for the NFL. Afterwards, Randy told his worker that he was shocked that she was able to locate his father and how very much he appreciated it. Randy proceeded to ask the specialist if she could also locate his cousin “Lil’ Wayne” the rapper. Both Randy and the specialist had a good laugh!

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